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INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 TEDE-00 ADS-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /001R

DRAFTED BY: AF/C: DLHEFLIN

APPROVED BY: AF/C: AXRENDER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192892

TO AMBASSADOR - KIGALI AND TO CHARGE - BUJUMBURA

E.O. 12356: DECL: 990811

TAGS: PGOV PHUM PREF PREL TZ CG BY RW

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. FOLLOWING IS THE AUGUST 11 RWANDA AND BURUNDI SITREP.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

SUMMARY

THE SECURITY SITUATION IN BURUNDI IS THE SAME,
WITH MAJOR ARMY RAIDS LAST WEEKEND AND POSSIBLY THIS
COMING ONE. IN RWANDA, KAGAME SOUNDED A CLEAR WARNING
THAT HIS ARMY MAY BE PREPARING TO FIGHT THE HUTU

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS

DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUL 2007 200103014

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EXTREMISTS BASED IN EASTERN ZAIRE. THE RWANDAN HEALTH MINISTER GAVE INDICATIONS THAT RWANDA MAY BE PREPARING TO TAKE ACTION ON ITS OVERCROWDED PRISONS.

THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY FOR BURUNDI IS NEARING FORMALIZATION. THERE WAS A MEETING AT THE WHITE HOUSE TO EXPLORE LONG-RANGE STRATEGIES FOR RWANDA AND BURUNDI. ZAIRE SENT SEVERAL DIPLOMATIC SIGNALS REGARDING THE SUB-REGION. THE RESOLUTION ON LIFTING THE RWANDAN ARMS EMBARGO IS NEARER TO INTRODUCTION AND EVENTUAL PASSAGE.

SECURITY SITUATION

OVER THE WEEKEND, EXTREMIST ATTACKS IN BURUNDI'S CIBITOKO PROVINCE LEFT 30 DEAD. THE ARMY LAUNCHED REPRISALS, AND CLAIM THAT THEY KILLED 50, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT ARMY CASUALTIES. CIVILIAN SOURCES PUT THE DEAD AT BETWEEN 90 AND 160, MOSTLY NON-COMBATANTS. THERE ARE CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT 35 ARMY WOUNDED WERE FLOWN TO HOSPITAL IN BUJUMBURA, AND THAT SOME WERE WOUNDED BY REBEL LANDMINES, A NEW WRINKLE. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE ARMY WILL LAUNCH ANOTHER RAID THIS WEEKEND. ON AUGUST 10, GUNMEN INVADDED THE HOME OF AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN THE BUJUMBURA SUBURBS. NO ONE WAS HURT, AND THE MISSIONARIES BELIEVE THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE AMERICANS, BUT BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN FEEDING 1,000 DISPLACED PERSONS. THE WFP REPORTS THAT THE NUMBER OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN BURUNDI HAS TRIPLED IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, FROM 100,000 TO 300,000. A HUTU FORMER GOVERNOR AND A TUTSI COUNSELOR TO A GOVERNOR WERE KILLED WITHIN HOURS OF EACH OTHER.

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RWANDAN VICE-PRESIDENT, DEFENSE MINISTER, AND POWER BEHIND THE THRONE PAUL KAGAME CALLED OUR DATT IN TO TELL HIM THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MORE CROSS-BORDER RAIDS FROM HUTU EXTREMISTS BASED IN ZAIRE, AND THAT RWANDA'S PATIENCE IS GROWING THIN. HE WARNED THE DATT THAT RWANDA EXPECTS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION BUT THAT RWANDA WILL DO SO IF NEED BE. WE HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR AMBASSADOR TO CAUTION KAGAME AGAINST HASTY

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ACTION, AND ARE DEMARCHING THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT AND UNHCR GENEVA ABOUT THE NEED TO MOVE THE REFUGEE CAMPS ON THE BORDER OUT OF HARM'S WAY IMMEDIATELY. THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT RWANDA IS MASSING 50,000 TROOPS ON THE BORDER, BUT OUR INFORMATION DOES NOT REVEAL ANY UNUSUAL TROOP CONCENTRATIONS.

RWANDAN PRISONS

THE HEALTH MINISTER, AN RPF INSIDER, CALLED OUR CHARGE IN TO FOLLOW UP ON THEIR AUGUST 3 CONVERSATION REGARDING PRISONS. THE MINISTER STATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL FORM A PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION TO WORK ON REDUCING THE OVERCROWDING IN THE JAILS. THEY WILL SEEK WESTERN HELP AND EXPERTISE. THERE IS A MEETING AT THE UN'S DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS IN GENEVA ON AUGUST 14 TO DISCUSS HOW THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN HELP. THE MINISTER HOPES THAT PRISONERS CAN START MOVING INTO NEW DETENTION FACILITIES WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

BURUNDI COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

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THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI STATED THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY BUT WITH RESERVATIONS. THE GOB WANTS TO HAVE SOME INPUT INTO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WANTS TO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TRY ANY OFFENDERS IN ITS OWN COURTS, RATHER THAN COMMIT TO AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL. THERE IS A GROWING CONSENSUS AT THE UN FOR THE FORMATION OF THE COMMISSION, AND WE HAVE PREPARED A DRAFT RESOLUTION. THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL SECOND A LAWYER WITH EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS AND TRIBUNALS TO THE COMMISSION.

REFUGEES

CAMP RELOCATION

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TOWARDS THE RELOCATION OF VULNERABLE REFUGEE CAMPS LOCATED NEAR THE RWANDAN BORDER IN EASTERN ZAIRE. KINSHASA, AFTER LENGTHY DELAY,

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REPORTEDLY HAS AGREED TO CAMP MOVEMENT, WITH UNHCR AND GOZ OFFICIALS SCHEDULED TO MEET ON AUGUST 15 IN BUKAVU TO DISCUSS DETAILS. AGREEMENT BY LOCAL ZAIRIAN AUTHORITIES HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED, AND UNHCR GENEVA SAYS THAT THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT ZAIRIAN ANGER OVER THE PROPOSED LIFTING OF THE RWANDA ARMS EMBARGO MAY CAUSE THEM TO BACKTRACK ON THE CAMP RELOCATION ISSUE.

WATER FOR TANZANIAN CAMPS

THE USG IS REQUESTING A MEETING WITH UNHCR TO DISCUSS DIMINISHING WATER SUPPLIES IN THE WESTERN TANZANIA REFUGEE CAMPS THAT CURRENTLY DO NOT MEET MINIMUM
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STANDARDS AND COULD RESULT IN DISASTER IN THE EVENT OF A NEW REFUGEE OUTFLOW. A UNHCR WATER SPECIALIST HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE REGION AND IS PREPARING RECOMMENDATIONS. OXFAM, THE NGO PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING WATER RESOURCES IN THE CAMPS, IS ALSO CONDUCTING A WATER SURVEY.

DIPLOMATIC/POLITICAL

THERE WAS AN NSC MEETING AT THE WHITE HOUSE TO DISCUSS LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR RWANDA AND BURUNDI. AN UNCLEARED DRAFT ON A REGIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE WAS HANDED OUT AT THE MEETING, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT WE WOULD PURSUE SUCH A CONFERENCE WITH CONTACT GROUPS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY PHYLLIS OAKLEY, AF PDAS PRUDENCE BUSHNELL AND SPECIAL COORDINATOR RICHARD BOGOSIAN ATTENDED FOR STATE.

ZAIRE SENT SEVERAL DIPLOMATIC SIGNALS DURING THE WEEK. THEY SERVED A NOTE ON OUR EMBASSY IN KINSHASA, STATING THAT THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT ARMS MONITORS IN ZAIRIAN AIRPORTS. HOWEVER, THE GOZ CALLED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO STUDY ARMS FLOWS IN THE AREA, AND THEY CONCEDE THAT SUCH A COMMISSION WILL NEED INVESTIGATIVE CAPABILITIES. THE GOZ ALSO STATED THAT IT WOULD NOT SUPPORT LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST RWANDA.

THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) SUBMITTED ITS DRAFT

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OF THE RWANDA ARMS EMBARGO RESOLUTION, AND IT IS NOT THAT
DIFFERENT FROM OURS. ONE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WAS THAT THE
NAM DRAFT CALLS FOR THE SYG TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF
MONITORS IN THE AIRPORTS, WHILE OURS CALLED ON
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NEIGHBORING STATES TO ACCEPT MONITORS. USUN WILL WORK TO
GET OUR LANGUAGE RESTORED.

END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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